

# WEATHERFORD SOCCER ASSOCIATION

... HELPING KIDS GET A KICK OUT OF LIFE!!

WSA's "HOTLINE" - 817-599-0424

WSA's Website - [www.weatherfordsoccer.com](http://www.weatherfordsoccer.com)

## COACHING RESPONSIBILITIES AND INFORMATION

1. **NOTIFICATION OF TEAM MEMBERS...**Please call members of your team as soon as possible. Your players will be anxious to hear from you. Tell them that they're on your team and provide them with the location, starting times, and duration of your practices.

2. **RESPONSIBILITY FOR TEAM MEMBERS...**When you agree to coach a team, you accept responsibility for the **safety** of the team members. This covers all team activities...practice, games, and tournaments. Please get to your practices on time so that your players are never without adult supervision. Ask your parents not to leave players until you arrive. **Under no circumstances is any player to be left alone following practice or a game.** We know you didn't volunteer to be a baby sitter, but we can't risk the safety of any child entrusted to our care. If some parents appear to be late all the time, please call your WSA League Representative and the Board will attempt to help.

3. **PRACTICES (TRAINING SESSIONS)...**As a volunteer coach, it is up to you to set the days and times for your practices. The WSA Board policy limits you to two practices/training sessions each week (Monday - Sunday).

**Practice Starting Times...**We request that practices not begin before 5:15 or 5:30 p.m. to allow people to return from work and get organized for training.

**Practice Duration...**North Texas Soccer suggests the following guidelines for

the length of practices that relate to the age and developmental levels of players.

Under-4, 5 & 6	45 minutes	Under-7 & 8	60 minutes
Under-9 & 10	75 minutes	Under-11 & up	75-90 minutes

**Practice Days...**Based on limited availability of practice sites; WSA coaches have used the following practice day combinations for many seasons.

- Monday - Thursday
- Tuesday - Thursday
- Tuesday - Friday
- Wednesday - Friday

**Practice Locations...**If you plan to practice on any WISD property other than Hall Jr. High and Tison Jr. High, you may need to obtain written permission from the school principal. With other youth sports starting up, you need to get this accomplished as soon as possible.

**Practice - Attendance and Other considerations...**The development of young soccer players is a cooperative effort involving the parents/guardians, coaches and WSA. To improve their level of skill and understanding of the game, it is important that players attend practice or training sessions whenever possible. Please emphasize to the parents/guardians that attendance at practice establishes the foundation to which the players add with every game and each touch of the ball.

We also request that you recognize that some of your players may have other commitments...other youth sports, school activities, music training, dance...especially those in Jr. High. We need to work these situations to minimize any conflicts to the best of our ability.

If you experience problems with players not attending practices, please contact the appropriate parents/guardians. If that does not solve your problem or improve the situation, then contact your League Representative. NTSSA allows an association/coach to withhold playing time for non-attendance. Check with your League Rep. about WSA's process and

procedures to be used for this situation.

**4. SAFEGUARDING OF WSA EQUIPMENT...**WSA issues each coach, balls and discs (cones) in an equipment bag each season. The quantities vary for the different age divisions. Because the replacement cost of each bag of balls and cones can range from \$40-\$60, The Board asks each of you to treat these assets as if they were your own property. Even though most of the balls will have “Property of WSA” or “WSA” on them, please write your team name on them (in small letters) so that the balls don’t get mixed up at practice or during a game.

The equipment should be returned after the last game of the season. The normal procedure is for us to exchange your players’ trophies for the bag of equipment.

**5. UNIFORMS...** WSA registration includes a uniform consisting of a shirt, shorts, socks, and a ball. Players are responsible for providing both shoes and the **mandatory shin guards**. Although it may be best if the players use a “soccer” or safe cleated type shoe, it is not necessary. If the players already have a safe shoe that could be used, the parents may not have to purchase another pair.

**Uniform Pickup and Distribution ...**You will be contacted by your League Representative as to time and place for pick up.

At that time, you will be asked to verify the contents of your team’s box to ensure that it contains the correct quantity of shirts, shorts, and socks. **If there is a problem, please contact your Uniform Committee Chair or League Representative.** Please don’t contact the uniform vendor directly!

**Shin Guards...**These are mandatory for all players and are available at most stores which carry sporting goods. **Players will not be able to participate without them.** (In some cases, NTSSA insurers have withheld claims for ankle and leg injuries if shin guards were not being worn). They should be covered entirely by the socks (shin guards on first; then socks over the shin guards). Suggestion... as a coach you may want to buy and extra pair to carry with your equipment.

**Jewelry...**By the Laws Of The Game (LOTG), all jewelry is considered to be “dangerous” and is not allowed to ensure player safety. This includes necklaces, bracelets, hair barrettes, and earrings or ear studs. Jewelry can no longer be covered by band-aids or tape.

**Cold Weather...**In the event of cold weather, please inform your parents that the players may wear additional clothing as long as it is under their uniforms.

**Goalkeeper Shirt...**The goalkeeper for your team needs to have a shirt which is different in color from any other player on the field (either team), the opposing goalkeeper, and the Referee. Because a T-shirt or a soccer shirt from a previous season will work, it should not be necessary to purchase a goalkeeper’s shirt.

**6. SEASON SCHEDULES...**We plan to post WSA schedules on the website ([www.weatherfordsoccer.com](http://www.weatherfordsoccer.com)) as soon as possible. “Conflict Sheets” will be collected from the coaches at the coach’s meeting.

**7. BEHAVIOR AND CONDUCT OF YOUR TEAM...**You are responsible for the behavior and conduct of your team before, during, and after all training sessions and games. Please don’t allow them to interrupt any other team’s training activities. On game days, please keep them under control and off the fields while other games are still in progress.

**8. BEHAVIOR, CONDUCT, AND ACTIONS OF PARENTS AND SPECTATORS...**You are responsible for the behavior, conduct and actions of those parents and spectators on you sidelines. Both you and your parents and spectators need to stay within the coaching areas (ten yards either side of the half-way line) marked on both sides of our WSA fields. North Texas Soccer recognizes the important role of both coaches, in cooperation with the Referee, in minimizing negative behavior by any people watching the game. If a game gets “out of control”, our Referees have been instructed to “abandon” the game.

**9. GAME DAY RESPONSIBILITIES...**The coach(es) of the first and last games

of the day on each field have special responsibilities.

Corner Flags...The coach (es) of the **HOME team** playing the **FIRST game** each game day is responsible for placing the four corner flags on the corners of the assigned field. The flags are available in the concession stand. The coach (es) of the **HOME team** playing the **LAST scheduled game** each game day is responsible for picking up the corner flags and returning them to the concession stand.

**Trash Can Liners...**The coach(es) of the **HOME team** playing the **FIRST game** each game day is responsible for ensuring that the trash cans for the field have new liners placed in them. The liners are available in the concession stand. The coach (es) of the **HOME team** playing the **LAST scheduled game** each game day is responsible for taking the trash bags up to the dumpster.

**Half time Refreshments...**You or your parents need to provide some water for your players to drink at half time and after they are substituted. Although other drinks can be used, most sports medicine authorities recommend water over the “sports drinks”.

10. **PLAYING RULES...**WSA’s Developmental Playing Rules for U-4 through U-10 can be found on the website, [www.weatherfordsoccer.com](http://www.weatherfordsoccer.com). The USYSA Developmental Rules have been very successful in helping younger players learn more about the game in a shorter period of time.

Two KEY ELEMENTS of the developmental rules for **Under 4, 5, 6, 7, & 8** are:

- A. **WE DO NOT KEEP SCORE.** There are no losers...**everyone** is a Winner!
- B. **WE DO NOT MAINTAIN STANDINGS.** **FUN**, development and improved knowledge of the game are our goals.

**Goalkeepers for Under 6 play...** Players on each team are to be rotated through the goalkeeper position with a change between each of the four quarters. For example, if you have six (6) players on your roster, four (4) of them would play in goal for a quarter. Goalkeepers are not used in U-4 and

U-5 play.

11. **PLAYING TIME...**North Texas State Soccer Association rules require that every rostered player participate at least 50% of every game that they attend unless prohibited by sickness, injury, or disciplinary reasons. In U6, 7, & 8, half of the game is considered to be two of the four quarters. For U-9 and up, half of the game is considered to be the length of one half.

12. **WEATHER...**Please instruct your parents that, unless they hear otherwise from **you** or get directions from WSA website and/or email, they need to have the players ready to play at the soccer complex or “on the road” in accordance with the official WSA game schedule. Please remind parents that players can wear additional clothing **UNDER** their uniform if necessary in case of cold weather conditions.

In the event of bad weather, we will try to make decisions on games as soon as possible so that you’ll have time to contact team members before it’s either too late or too early. **Also check the internet website ([www.weatherfordsoccer.com](http://www.weatherfordsoccer.com)) for game status when weather may impact the game schedule.**

13. **TEAM PICTURES...**WSA coordinates the scheduling of individual and team pictures as a service to our players and parents. The picture sessions are considered an official WSA function and we will work with individual teams to ensure that everyone has a chance to take pictures. Buying pictures is voluntary, but we do expect all teams to participate and all members of a team to be present for the taking of team pictures.

14. **WSA ORGANIZATION...**IF you have questions during the season, the first person to call should be your WSA League Representative. The email addresses and phone numbers for the League Reps. are available on WSA’s website: [www.weatherfordsoccer.com](http://www.weatherfordsoccer.com) under League Team Reps.

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